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United Nations

Commission on Population and Development

Report on the fifty-first session (7 April 2017 and 9–13 April 2018)

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Commission on Population and Development

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United Nations • New York, 2018

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Summary

The fifty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development was held at United Nations Headquarters on 7 April 2017 and from 9 to 13 April 2018. Its special theme was "Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration". Opening statements were made by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations on behalf of the Secretary-General, by the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and by the Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The Commission considered five reports of the Secretary-General.

The report of the Secretary-General on sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration (E/CN.9/2018/2), prepared by the Population Division, provides an overview of the ways in which human mobility is shaping the spatial distribution of the global population within and across national boundaries. More than half of the world's population lives in cities in 2018, and countries tend to experience high levels of urbanization and migration during periods of economic transformation. Well-managed urbanization can promote sustainable development; strategic polices are needed in order to improve access to education, health care and housing, increase productivity and expand opportunities while minimizing the environmental and other adverse impacts of urbanization. Meanwhile, the number of international migrants continues to increase, having reached 258 million worldwide in 2017. Migration is a powerful driver of global economic and social development. Cities are the main destinations of international migrants, with some cities serving as gateways for entry and onward movement. Urbanization policies should reflect the linkages between migration and urbanization.

The report of the Secretary-General entitled "Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development: monitoring of population programmes, focusing on sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration" (E/CN.9/2018/3) was prepared by the United Nations Population Fund. The report provides examples of policies and programmes that countries have developed and implemented to address the challenges and harness the opportunities of urbanization and mobile populations. In the report, it is highlighted that investments in human capital development and policies to harness the potential for a demographic dividend should be informed by trends in youth mobility. In addition, the promotion of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights for migrant and mobile populations, as well as for refugees and crisis-affected populations, is emphasized. Initiatives should simultaneously improve access to education, training, housing and decent work for national populations in need and for migrants and refugees. Also emphasized is the need to strengthen migration data and research, as well as data on the living conditions and welfare of persons residing in slums.

The report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2018/4) builds on two preceding reports of the Secretary-General on this issue and includes several recommendations for improved tracking of resources going forward. The first recommendation is to expand the scope of tracking beyond reproductive health and family planning to include a broader array of investments relevant to the Programme of Action. The second is to restrict the annual tracking of resource flows to data provided by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation

and Development and to forgo the more methodologically challenging task of tracking flows from other sources, including from domestic resources, until the relevant data systems improve significantly. Also discussed in the report are means to strengthen data derived from systems of national accounts.

In the report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2018/5), ongoing changes in the global population, including population projections until 2100, are highlighted. The report shows that while fertility levels are declining in almost all countries and life expectancy at birth is increasing, the composition of population by age is changing, with a wide range of trajectories among geographical regions and countries. In Africa in particular, a young population is contributing to rapid growth of the population. At the other end of the spectrum, in Europe, the population is ageing rapidly and is expected to begin to decline in size within a few years. Population growth contributes to rapid urbanization and an increase in the size and number of urban settlements. International migration has reached an unprecedented level, with most movements taking place between countries in the same geographical region. It is pointed out in the report that the population is growing the most rapidly in countries facing the greatest challenges with regard to ending poverty and hunger and ensuring health, education and equality for all.

The report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2017 (E/CN.9/2018/6) contains a review of the progress made by the Population Division in implementing its programme of work. The Division has continued to strengthen the demographic evidence base through its analytical reports, global data sets and other publications, and through its capacity-building activities. It has also contributed to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the production of Sustainable Development Goal indicators, and has supported intergovernmental processes of the Commission on Population and Development and the General Assembly.

In their statements in the general debate, countries emphasized that the full implementation of the Programme of Action would be critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and stressed the importance of taking population trends, including those related to urbanization, human mobility and international migration, into account in their development planning. Several delegations stressed the synergy of migration and development and the importance of facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration. Some countries emphasized the value of remittances to countries of origin. Most countries reaffirmed their commitment to the human rights of migrants. Countries stressed the need to address the interlinkages between urbanization, migration, human mobility, agriculture and rural development and the need to invest in people, especially young people and women. Several countries recognized the contribution of urbanization to economic development and emphasized the need to strengthen services and infrastructure in urban and peri-urban areas and to fight poverty. Some countries considered sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights to be a prerequisite for sustainable development. They advocated a rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to family planning, comprehensive sexuality education and educational and job opportunities for young people, especially young girls. They also emphasized the need for migrants to have access to sexual and reproductive health-care services in host countries. Countries also stressed the importance of disaggregated data and statistics for monitoring demographic trends and their impacts on development, including data on internal and international migration, as well as the need to build capacities for work in this area.

The Commission heard two keynote addresses and an expert panel, each followed by an interactive discussion. On Monday, 9 April, Gora Mboup (Senegal), President and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Observatory Linking Research to Action

and former Head of the Global Urban Observatory of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, delivered a keynote address on the theme "Urbanization and migration — two global megatrends: diversity, opportunities and challenges". On Tuesday, 10 April, Marie Price (United States of America), Professor of Geography and International Affairs at the George Washington University, delivered a keynote address on the theme "Urban settlements as global immigrant gateways". On Wednesday, 11 April, the Commission heard an expert panel discussion on the theme "Cities at the forefront of receiving migrants: experiences and lessons learned". The Director of the Population Division introduced the panellists and moderated the discussion. The panel included four experts: Marcela Cerrutti (Argentina), Professor and Senior Researcher at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council; Alice Charles (Ireland), Lead in Cities and Urban Development at the World Economic Forum; Hazem Galal (Egypt), Partner and Global Leader in the Cities and Local Government Sector of PricewaterhouseCoopers; and Doug Saunders (Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), author and journalist for the *Globe and Mail of Toronto*, Canada.

Approximately 125 representatives of some 80 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accredited with the Economic and Social Council — out of roughly 670 persons who had pre-registered, of whom 430 subsequently confirmed registration — attended the annual session. A total of 20 statements on behalf of individual organizations or groups of NGOs had been submitted well in advance and became official documents of the session. An additional three statements were posted on the web page of the Commission. In addition, 10 representatives of NGOs delivered oral statements from the floor.

At the request of the Chair, informal consultations on a draft resolution were led by the Vice-Chair Zandile Bhengu (South Africa). Informal consultations on the draft decisions were led by the Vice-Chair Nicola Barker-Murphy (Jamaica).

Delegations noted that the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development would be critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and stressed the importance of taking into account population trends, including those related to urbanization, human mobility and international migration, in their development planning. At the same time, reservations were expressed from the beginning by several Member States about holding deliberations on human mobility and international migration in the Commission, as those issues were being addressed in parallel by the General Assembly as part of the ongoing negotiations on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. There was broad agreement about the importance of not prejudging the outcome of the Assembly's deliberations, but differing views on how to apply this idea in practice during the informal consultations on a draft resolution on the special theme.

The Commission did not reach consensus on the resolution on the special theme, notwithstanding the substantial progress made by the facilitator, Zandile Bhengu (South Africa), in forging agreement among delegations on key topics, and the efforts of the Chair, the Ambassador of Romania, Ion Jinga, to craft a Chair's text that would strike a compromise between competing points of view. The Chair's text was distributed at the 8th meeting, on Friday, 13 April, in the early afternoon. When the 8th and final meeting of the session began, one delegation and one major group announced that they would not be able to join a consensus, for reasons relating to sexual and reproductive health and national sovereignty. The Chair then suspended the meeting briefly. When it resumed, the Chair's text was withdrawn.

The main outcomes of the Commission's fifty-first session were decisions on the special theme for the fifty-third session, to be held in 2020 ("Population, food security,

nutrition and sustainable development"), and on the future of the report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2018/4). The Commission also approved the provisional agenda for its fifty-second session.

The decision on the report of the Secretary-General was submitted as a draft proposal for action by the Economic and Social Council. If adopted, the draft decision implies that future reports on this topic shall be based on data on official development assistance (ODA), tracking resource allocations by all donors, as recorded in the creditor reporting system of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; that the resource tracking exercise shall be expanded, where feasible, beyond the four costed components contained in the Programme of Action to include additional topics bearing directly on the Programme of Action, including health, the empowerment of women and education, and the specific focus on the special theme of the annual session of the Commission; and that the report shall continue to be produced on an annual basis and shall include, every fourth year beginning with the fifty-second session, in 2019, an update on the status of emerging and potential new data sources, including sources of information about non-ODA expenditures.

[27 April 2018]

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-first session and provisional agenda for its fifty-second session*

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-first session;[1]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.[2]
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

3. General debate:
   (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels;
   (b) Review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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* For the discussion, see chap. V.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 5* (E/2018/25).

[2] In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2005/213 of 31 March 2005, the Commission, immediately following the close of its fiftieth session, held the first meeting of its fifty-first session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other members of the Bureau, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

4. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.

Documentation[3]

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2018: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Note by the Secretary-General on the draft programme of work for 2020: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs

5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Commission

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-second session.

Report on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare periodic reports for the substantive sessions of the Economic and Social Council on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action and to promote the exchange of information on the requirements for international assistance among the members of the donor community,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council decision 2017/259 of 7 July 2017, in which the Council requested the United Nations Population Fund, in consultation with the Secretariat, to provide, in the context of the report on the flow of financial resources to be submitted to the Commission at its fifty-first session in 2018, information on a potential revision of the methods, categories and data sources used as the basis for preparing this report, with technical recommendations on, inter alia, the future scope, format and periodicity of the report, and decided that the Commission should review the technical recommendations at its fifty-first session,

[3] In its resolution 72/266, the General Assembly approved the change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis. It is anticipated that new formats for reporting on programme implementation and the draft programme of work will be finalized in 2018 and could lead to changes in the documents listed here.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[4]

Decides:

(a) That future reports on the flow of financial resources shall be based on official development assistance, tracking resource allocations by all donors, as recorded in the creditor reporting system of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

(b) That the resource tracking exercise shall be expanded, where feasible, beyond the four costed components contained in the Programme of Action to include additional topics bearing directly on the Programme of Action, including health, empowerment of women and education, and the specific focus on the special theme of the annual session of the Commission on Population and Development;

(c) That the report shall continue to be produced on an annual basis and shall include, every fourth year beginning with the fifty-second session in 2019, an update on the status of emerging and potential new data sources, including sources of information about non-official development assistance expenditures.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 2018/101
Special theme for the fifty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development in 2020

The Commission on Population and Development decides that the special theme for its fifty-third session in 2020 shall be "Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development".

Decision 2018/102
Documents considered by the Commission on Population and Development at its fifty-first session**

The Commission on Population and Development takes note of the following document:

Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2017: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs".[5]

** For the discussion, see chap. III.

[4] E/CN.9/2018/4.

[5] E/CN.9/2018/6.

Chapter II

General debate:
(a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels
(b) Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration

3. The Commission held a general discussion on item 3 of its agenda, "General debate: (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels; (b) Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration", at its 2nd to 8th meetings, from 9 to 13 April 2018. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration (E/CN.9/2018/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development: monitoring of population programmes, focusing on sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration" (E/CN.9/2018/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2018/4).

4. The Commission also had before it a number of statements submitted by NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.[6]

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Canada (on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand), Qatar, the Philippines, Belarus and China, as well as the observers for Egypt (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Austria (on behalf of the European Union) and Nigeria (on behalf of the Group of African States).

6. At its 3rd meeting, on 9 April, the Commission heard statements by the Chief of the Demographic Analysis Branch, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General on sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration (A/CN.9/2018/2); the Director of the Technical Division of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), who introduced the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development: monitoring of population programmes, focusing on sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration" (A/CN.9/2018/3); and the Chief of the Population and Development Branch of UNFPA, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/CN.9/2018/4). The Commission also heard

[6] E/CN.9/2018/NGO/1, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/2, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/3, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/4, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/5, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/6, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/7, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/8, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/9, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/10, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/11, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/12, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/13, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/14, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/15, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/16, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/17, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/18, E/CN.9/2018/NGO/19 and E/CN.9/2018/NGO/20.

statements by the representatives of Mexico, Brazil, the Republic of Moldova, Argentina, Germany, Cuba, Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Israel, as well by the observers for Egypt, Poland, Ghana, Jordan, Thailand, Burkina Faso, Norway, Honduras, Ecuador and Switzerland.

7. At its 4th meeting, on 10 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Mongolia, Romania, Morocco, the Sudan, Peru, Sierra Leone, Japan, Madagascar and South Africa, as well as by the observers for the Niger, India, Côte d'Ivoire, Turkey, Nigeria, Costa Rica, Uruguay and Indonesia.

8. At its 5th meeting, on 11 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Zambia, the Russian Federation, Liberia, the Dominican Republic, the United States of America, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Malaysia and Uganda, as well as the observers for Swaziland, Libya, Cabo Verde, the Netherlands, the Syrian Arab Republic, Nepal, Myanmar, Samoa, Tunisia, El Salvador, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, the Gambia, Algeria, Togo, Bangladesh and Kenya.

9. At its 6th meeting, on 11 April, following a panel discussion on the theme "Cities at the forefront of receiving migrants: experiences and lessons learned", the Commission heard statements by the representative of Luxembourg and by the observers for Kyrgyzstan, the Maldives and the United Arab Emirates. The observers for the Holy See and the State of Palestine also made statements. In addition, statements were made by the representatives of the International Organization for Migration (on behalf of the Global Migration Group), the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as by the observer for Partners in Population and Development. At the end of the meeting, the representative of Israel and the observer for the State of Palestine made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

10. At the 7th meeting, on 12 April, statements were made by the representative of Jamaica and by the observer for Azerbaijan. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

11. Also at the 7th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following NGOs: the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, the Right Here Right Now programme, the International Federation for Family Development, the New Zealand Family Planning Association, the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants, C-Fam, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, the World Youth Alliance, the FEMM Foundation and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population. The Commission thus concluded its general debate on agenda item 3.

Keynote addresses and panel discussions

12. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 April, the Commission heard a keynote address by Gora Mboup (Senegal), Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Observatory Linking Research to Action and former Head of the Global Urban Observatory of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, on the theme "Urbanization and migration — two global megatrends: diversity, opportunities and challenges". In his presentation, Mr. Mboup focused on the nexus of urbanization and migration. He emphasized the importance of urban areas for the future of the planet, noting that most megacities were located in developing countries and that cities could be drivers of sustainable development. He suggested that migration could play an important role in the context of ageing urban populations, noting that international migration was mostly intraregional. He discussed the challenges of, and the barriers

to, migrant integration into host societies and explained that cities played a critical role in welcoming and hosting migrants. Lastly, he expressed concern about the current migration crisis, including the problems of human trafficking and migrant fatalities in transit. The statement was followed by an interactive discussion, in which the representatives of Mexico, Zambia, Cuba and the Philippines participated. During the discussion, Mr. Mboup responded to questions on migrant remittances and government policies concerning urbanization and migration.

13. At the 4th meeting, on 10 April, Marie Price (United States of America), Professor of Geography and International Affairs at the George Washington University, delivered a keynote address on the theme "Urban settlements as global immigrant gateways". Ms. Price observed that some cities served as gateways: critical entry points that drew international migrants from a wide range of sending countries. The gateway cities facilitated cultural exchange and were nodes for the collection, circulation and dispersion of goods, capital and people. The 22 largest gateway cities each had more than 1 million foreign-born residents. These highly diverse communities offered many opportunities to residents, but also tended to be characterized by exclusion, vulnerability and segregation. She noted the increasing number of rotating migrant labourers, often allowed entry only temporarily or without authorization, in precarious and unstable conditions. The statement was followed by an interactive discussion, in which the representatives of the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, Japan, Cuba, Germany and Zambia, as well as the observers for Honduras, the Gambia and Haiti, participated. Ms. Price answered questions centred on migrant integration, issues of citizenship and inclusion, linkages between human mobility and sustainable development of sending and receiving countries, and on best practices to guide policymakers.

14. At the 6th meeting, on 11 April, an expert panel and interactive discussion was held on the theme "Cities at the forefront of receiving migrants: experiences and lessons learned". The Director of the Population Division introduced the panellists and moderated the discussion. The panel included four experts: Marcela Cerrutti (Argentina), Senior Researcher at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council; Alice Charles (Ireland), Lead in Cities and Urban Development, World Economic Forum; Hazem Galal (Egypt), Partner and Global Leader in the Cities and Local Government Sector of PricewaterhouseCoopers; and Doug Saunders (Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), author and journalist for the *Globe and Mail of Toronto*, Canada. Ms. Cerrutti highlighted the contributions of international migrants to the cities that hosted them, emphasizing that positive impacts were contingent on having appropriate policies. She emphasized that in many cities of the global South, unplanned urban growth often segregated migrants, restricting their access to services and infrastructure. Ms. Charles and Mr. Galal provided examples of various types of migration, and of the principal migration corridors and cities, as a way to better understand the impact of migration on cities and how cities had sought to meet the attendant challenges. Mr. Saunders emphasized the interconnectedness and interdependence of international migration and urban growth. He called for greater coherence in policymaking at the national, local and city levels.

Action taken by the Commission

Special theme for the Commission on Population and Development in 2020

15. At its 8th meeting, on 13 April, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled "Special theme for the Commission on Population and Development in 2020", submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations. The Commission

adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2018/101). The representative of Mexico spoke after its adoption.

Report on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

16. At the same meeting, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled "Report on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development", submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations. Algeria spoke prior to the adoption of the text. The Commission then adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. A).

Resolution on the special theme of the fifty-first session

17. Also at the 8th meeting, the Chair introduced his text of the draft resolution entitled "Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration". The representatives of the United States of America and Uganda, on behalf of the African Group, presented explanations of position, after which the meeting was suspended. Upon its resumption, the Chair's text of the draft resolution on the special theme of the fifty-first session of the Commission was withdrawn. The Commission thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 3.

Chapter III

Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

18. The Commission held a general discussion on item 4 of its agenda, "Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population", at its 7th meeting, on 12 April 2018. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2018/5);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2017 (E/CN.9/2018/6).

19. At the same meeting, the Commission heard statements by the Chief of the Population Studies Branch of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and by the Senior Population Affairs Officer in the Office of the Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

20. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, China, Germany, the United States of America, Japan and Mexico, as well as by the observer for Norway.

Action taken by the Commission

Documents considered by the Commission under agenda item 4

21. At its 8th meeting, on 13 April, on the proposal of the Chair, the Commission took note of two documents submitted under agenda item 4 (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2018/102).

Chapter IV

Provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Commission

22. At its 8th meeting, on 13 April 2018, the Commission had before it the provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2018/L.2).

23. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda (see chap. I, sect. A).

Chapter V

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-first session

24. At its 8th meeting, on 13 April 2018, the Commission adopted the draft report on its fifty-first session (E/CN.9/2018/L.3) and authorized the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur, Jawad Ali (Pakistan), to finalize the document in consultation with the Secretariat.

25. At the same meeting, before the closing of the session, statements were made by the representatives of Tunisia (on behalf of Australia, Austria, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Cambodia, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, the Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay), the United States of America, Australia, Algeria, South Africa, the Philippines, Brazil and Cabo Verde, and by the observer for the Holy See. A statement was also made by the Secretary of the Commission. In addition, the co-facilitator of the informal consultations, Zandile Bhengu (South Africa), made a statement.

Chapter VI
Organization of the session

A. Opening, closing and duration of the session

26. The Commission on Population and Development held its fifty-first session at United Nations Headquarters on 7 April 2017 and from 9 to 13 April 2018. The Commission held eight meetings (1st to 8th).

27. At the 2nd meeting, on 9 April 2018, the session was opened by the Chair of the Commission, Ion Jinga (Romania), who made a statement.

28. At the same meeting, the Commission heard statements by the Deputy Secretary-General (on behalf of the Secretary-General), the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund and the Director of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

29. During the closing of the session, at the 8th meeting, on 13 April 2018, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund and the Chair of the fifty-first session made statements.

B. Attendance

30. The session was attended by 42 States members of the Commission. Observers for 72 other States Members of the United Nations and 2 non-Member States, representatives of organizations and other entities of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and NGOs also attended.[7] The list of delegations is available in document E/CN.9/2018/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

31. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 7 April 2017 and 9 April 2018, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:

Ion Jinga (Romania)

Vice-Chairs:

Zandile Bhengu (South Africa)
Jawad Ali (Pakistan)
Nicola Barker-Murphy (Jamaica)
René Lauer (Luxembourg)

32. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 April 2018, the Commission designated the Vice-Chair, Jawad Ali (Pakistan), to serve also as Rapporteur for the session.

D. Agenda

33. At its 2nd meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2018/1), which read:

[7] Only non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and accredited to the fifty-first session of the Commission were permitted to participate.

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. General debate:
   (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels;
   (b) Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration.
4. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-first session.

34. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session (E/CN.9/2018/L.1).

E. Documentation

35. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-first session is available from the website of the Population Division (www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/sessions/2018/index.shtml).

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